(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The action taken to control poaching and illegal felling of trees include:

(i) Regular patrolling by the field staff.

(ii) Legal action against the offenders.

(iii) Enlisting support of local community through Joint Forest Management and Eco-development Programmes.

(iv) Providing compensation for lose of life and property.

(v) Providing funds for purchase of wireless equipment for better protecting.

Urban Green Belt Programme

1711. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to introduce urban green belt programme in some selected cities;

(b) if so, the cities identified for the purpose;

(c) the names of cities in Orissa where the above Centrally-sponsored urban afforestation programme is proposed to be implemented; and

(d) the details of funds earmarked for the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have initiated a programme on Green Belt for Abatement of Pollution and Environmental Improvement in selected cities / towns. Under the programme, five cities/towns in Tamil Nadu have been taken up. These are: Chennai, Salem, Coimbatore, Madurai and Tirunelvelli.

Under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and Ganga Action Plan Phase—II, 80 towns in different States/Union Territories are covered for afforestation activiteis within the premises of sewage treatment plants, pumping stations, along the banks of effluent channels river courses, pathways and areas around crematoria and bathing ghats and low cost sanitation facilities etc.

(c) The names of the cities in Orissa where afforestation programme under National River Conservation Plan covered include Cuttack, Talcher, Chandbali and Dharmashala.

(d) A provision of Rs.8.99 crores has been earmarked for Afforestation Programme under National River Conservation Plan and Ganga Action Plan Phase-II. For the programme on Green Belt for Abatement of Pollution and Environmental Improvement in selected towns/cities in the country, funds are made available on project to project basis.

Pollution Problem in Metropolitan Cities

1712. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of effective steps taken so far by Government with regard to pollution problem in metropolitan/major cities of the country;

(b) what is the result of such steps;

(c) whether environmental awareness programme is being implemented by Government in those cities;

(d) whether any Central assistance is being granted to States for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONEMNT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Government has taken various steps to control pollution in the metropolitan/major cities of the country which include the following:—

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.

(ii) Highly polluting industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipment in a time bound basis and legal action has been initiated against the defaulting units.

(iii) Under the World Bank Scheme, 89 Common Effluent Treatment Plants have been provided subsidy which are at various stages of implementation.